

# Timeline for Wheaton Undergraduates Seeking Competitive Scholarships

## Throughout Your Undergraduate Years at Wheaton:

Develop relationships with your professors

Seek service/growth opportunities outside of the classroom

Keep your Fellowship Application Organizer up-to-date - periodically revisit/revise your personal essay (but save all versions!)

### First Year

#### **MAKE STUDYING A PRIORITY**

- Consider what you want to get out of your years at Wheaton. Write a list of expectations, hopes and dreams
- Make a schedule with your classes, time for study, time to work, time for extra-curricular activities, and time to rest. Don't try to do too much!
- Get to know your professors. Make use of their office hours! Dine With A Mind! (This is a free lunch with a professor. Ask in the Student Activities Office.) Ask them about their research, faith, life, and work. They enjoy talking with students!
- Find out more about various majors, minors, or certificates that match your interests
- Visit Global Programs and Studies (GPS) and talk with your advisor about study abroad opportunities
- Visit the Center for Career and Vocation (CVC) and talk with your advisor about internship opportunities
  - Talk with your advisor about major-related competitive and off-campus opportunities, including research.
  - Contact the Office of Competitive Fellowships to learn about research and nationally competitive scholarships and fellowships or do some research on your own (e.g., [ProFellow.com](http://ProFellow.com))
  - Seek out opportunities for leadership. If you see a gap in what exists or feel called to do something new, try it! Make it! Do it!



### Summer before Sophomore Year

Take advantage of one or both of these opportunities:

- ✓ Look for a job or internship that will give you some exposure to fields that may be of interest and will give you skills you hope to carry forward.
- ✓ Find volunteer opportunities that will put you in touch with areas you hope to grow into for the future.

## Sophomore Year

### **MAKE STUDYING A PRIORITY**

- Choose a major (if you haven't already).
- Revisit the goals, expectations, and hopes you identified in your first year and adjust as needed.
- Add a minor or certificate program that will enhance your major or other interests
  - Get to know the faculty in your major department and speak with them about enrichment opportunities in your discipline such as research projects or internships
  - Contact the Office of Competitive Fellowships about nationally competitive scholarship opportunities
  - Visit GPS or talk with your advisor about opportunities to study abroad
  - Visit the CVC or talk with your advisor about internship opportunities
  - Pursue leadership opportunities or develop new initiatives on or off campus that match your goals
- Major opportunities for sophomore applicants include: Barry Goldwater, Humanity in Action, Mount Vernon, Udall, State Department fellowships/internships, Critical Language Scholarship, and Boren Awards



## Junior Year

### **MAKE STUDYING A PRIORITY**

- Revisit the goals, expectations and hopes you identified in your second year and adjust as needed.
- Participate in organizations and continue to pursue leadership positions
- Contact the Office of Competitive Fellowships about programs you must apply for in September of your senior year such as Rhodes, Marshall, Carnegie, and Fulbright
- Visit GPS or talk with your advisor about opportunities to study abroad
- Visit the CVC or talk with your advisor about internship opportunities
- Begin planning for your senior honors thesis by securing a faculty mentor to direct the project
- Research graduate and/or professional schools and find out requirements, costs, and fellowship and assistantship opportunities
- Major opportunities for junior applicants include: Barry Goldwater, Carnegie, D.A.A.D, Humanity in Action, Public Policy and International Affairs Fellows, Udall. Critical Language Scholarship, and Boren. Go to the Wheaton College Summer Research Fellows website to explore on-campus research

## Summer before Junior Year

Find a job, volunteer or research opportunities that will put you into vocational areas in which you hope to participate in the future

Identify individuals to write recommendations for scholarship or fellowship applications due during your junior year

## Summer before Senior Year

Revise your personal essay; update your Fellowship Application Organizer

Identify individuals to write recommendation letters

Participate in a study abroad program, internship, volunteer service or summer research project.

Study for GRE, MCAT, LSAT, GMAT, etc. (if applicable)

Begin developing personal essays and application materials for graduate or professional school (if applicable)

Learn about potential research and nationally competitive scholarship opportunities

## Senior Year

### **MAKE STUDYING A PRIORITY**

- Participate in organizations and continue to pursue leadership positions
- Complete your senior thesis
- Apply for graduation
- Study for GRE, MCAT, LSAT, GMAT, etc. (if applicable)
- Request letters of recommendation
- Apply for graduate or professional school (fall semester); be cognizant of application fees
- Major opportunities for Senior applicants include: Carnegie, Department of Energy, Fulbright, Hertz Graduate Fellows, Humanity in Action, National Science Foundation, Marshall, Rhodes, Schwarzman Scholars. Go to the Fellowships & Scholarships web pages to find opportunities by discipline.
- Many of the scholarships have on-campus application procedures prior to the application for the scholarship itself.
- Note that many of these scholarships are also available post graduation, but require institutional sponsorship, so you will need to maintain contact with our office.